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9 June 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Foreseeable Trends and Developments in
Agency Program Activities

1. What geographic areas will require major attention?

a. Agency program activities will continue to focus major attention on the following geographic areas:

(1) Soviet Russia: This country will remain the single most serious threat to the U.S. in terms of military power, leadership in the international Communist movement, political and economic pressures, penetration of underdeveloped areas and subversive capabilities.

(2) Communist China: Peiping's increasing nuclear and missile capabilities will require major attention by the Agency. Chicom subversive activities in Southeast Asia and Africa will continue to frustrate U.S. interests in those areas.

(3) Southeast Asia: The countries of North Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and the [REDACTED] problem will continue to require priority attention.

(4) Latin America: Insurgency activities will continue in this area. Countries on CIA's "fever list" which bear watching are [REDACTED] and, of course, Cuba and the [REDACTED]

(5) Africa: Bloc efforts, particularly Chicom, to subvert independent African states will increase.

(6) Middle East: The Arab-Israeli problem will continue to require major attention by the Agency.

(7) Western Europe: France's independent position will continue as a threat to NATO and the Western alliance.

(8) Far East: Tokyo's relations with Peiping will have to be watched. The North-South Korean problem remains a threat to our security in the Far East.

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2. What technical developments will influence collection methods?

a. The Agency will acquire intelligence through technical and scientific methods involving photography (satellite, aircraft, drones, balloons), acoustics, radar detection, and interception of radio communications (COMINT) and other electronic emissions (ELINT). This capability should increase substantially in forthcoming years as newer techniques and equipment are developed.

b. The Agency will upgrade and augment its scientific and technical support to agent operations. Support will include audio surveillance, clandestine communication, and technical surveillance devices.

c. COMINT and ELINT programs and operations will be improved by means of advanced gear.

d. Exploitation of the product obtained by technical collection means (e.g. photography) will be upgraded by the development of automated systems for rapid handling of mass data.

3. Relative importance of technical versus traditional collection methods.

a. The rapid advances made in technical collection methods, particularly in the acquisition of intelligence information on denied areas, would appear to indicate that traditional collection methods (overt and covert) are becoming passe. However, this is far from the truth. All types of collection methods are essential if they provide timely and useful intelligence information. This can be said of our traditional collection methods and our technical collection methods. Each is unique and has its role in the intelligence collection picture.



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